

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02930 01 OF 02 172238Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 CTME-00 JUSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01  
SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 AID-05 H-01 AGRE-00  
L-03 DODE-00 /061 W  
-----080634 172256Z /15

O 172219Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8402  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCONSULATES IN MEXICO (POUCH)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 02930

GENEVA FOR FALCO AND BENSINGER

EO 11652 N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT MEXICO  
HAS CEASED TO COOPERATE ON NARCOTICS

1. FIVE MAJOR MEXICO CITY DAILIES QUOTE CONGRESSMEN  
BENJAMIN GILMAN AND LESTER WOLFF AS SAYING THAT MEXICO  
HAS DECREASED ITS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ON  
NARCOTICS. HEADLINES: UNIVERSAL, PAGE 11, "CONFIRM IN  
THE US THAT MEXICO HAS CEASED TO COOPERATE IN THE  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST HEROIN TRAFFIC"; NOVEDADES, PAGE 3,  
"MEXICO HELPS LESS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING";  
EL DIA, PAGE 8: "THEY SAY IN US THAT MEXICAN ANTIDRUG  
POLICIES HAVE CHANGED"; EL HERALDO, PAGE 10, "MEXICO HAS  
CEASED TO COOPERATE AS IT USED TO IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN US"; UNO MAS UNO, PAGE 8,  
"MEXICO NO LONGER COOPERATES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG  
TRAFFIC, CONFIRMS US CONGRESSMAN".

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02930 01 OF 02 172238Z

2. ALL STORIES SEEM TO BE BASED ON ASSOCIATED PRESS ITEM  
BY MIKE SHANAHAN, FILED FROM WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 16,  
ALTHOUGH UNO MAS UNO ATTRIBUTES ITS STORY TO ITS  
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, RAYMUNDO RIVA PALACIO. THEMES  
OF ARTICLES APPEARING LOCALLY:

(A) A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SAID THAT MEXICO HAS CEASED TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS IT USED TO IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HEROIN TRAFFIC.

(B) CONGRESSMAN GILMAN SAID "THERE HAS BEEN A SUDDEN CHANGE IN MEXICAN POLICY".

(C) CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THEIR RECENT TRIP TO 10 DRUG PRODUCING NATIONS, BUT DID NOT INCLUDE MEXICO IN THE TRIP.

(D) GILMAN SAID DEA AGENTS USED TO ACCOMPANY THEIR MEXICAN COLLEAGUES IN AIRPLANES AND HELICOPTERS, AND THE MEXICANS USED TO APPLY HERBICIDE ON POPPY FIELDS. NOW, ACCORDING TO GILMAN, DEA AGENTS HAVE QUIT FLYING WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS AND "THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE HERBICIDE PROGRAM". THIS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM BECAUSE IN THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS A NEW POPPY CROP WILL BE HARVESTED.

(E) US ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE. (UNO MAS UNO ADDS THAT BELL'S TRIP TO MEXICO HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY "BECAUSE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED".)

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 02930 01 OF 02 172238Z

(F) IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IN THE PAST YEAR MEXICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN UNEASY ABOUT THE FACT THAT DEA AGENTS ACT ON THEIR OWN ON OCCASIONS. "A DEA SOURCE SAID THAT DEA HESITATED TO INFORM MEXICAN AGENTS ABOUT DEA MOVEMENTS FOR FEAR THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD REACH TRAFFICKERS". (THIS ITEM IN UNIVERSAL AND EL DIA ONLY.)

(G) UNO MAS UNO COVERAGE CONTINUES THAT GILMAN "WAS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM MORE THAN TEN DAYS AGO WHEN HE WROTE TO STATE AND DEA REQUESTING THAT THEY INVESTIGATE THE MOTIVES THAT LED THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE ITS COOPERATION". REPORT STATES THAT RECENTLY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF DEA TOLD CONGRESS THAT THE JOINT PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO WERE SUCCESSFUL, CONTRADICTING A GAO REPORT, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT ONLY 50 DAYS AGO.

3. ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 17, FERNANDO BAEZA, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TELEPHONED CHARGE. HE SAID ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABOVE PRESS COVERAGE AND HAD INSTRUCTED BAEZA TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE CHARGE THAT THESE STORIES WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT MEXICO'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON EFFECTIVELY

THE NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. FLORES HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT. FLORES, BAEZA CONTINUED, IS TRYING TO INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, MEXICO VIEWS THE NARCOTICS SITUATION AS A MEXICAN PROBLEM, FOR WHICH MEXICO IS RESPONSIBLE AND WHICH MEXICO IS DETERMINED TO RESOLVE. OUR COMMON INTEREST ARISES BECAUSE, AS MEXICO WORKS AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE UNITED STATES ALSO BENEFITS.

4. CHARGE LAMENTED THE PRESS COVERAGE AND SAID WE DID NOT KNOW THE ORIGIN OF THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONGRESSMEN. HE INFORMED BAEZA THAT, IF ASKED, THE EMBASSY WOULD NOTE THAT THE STATEMENTS BEAR NO RELATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION, MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MEXICO 02930 01 OF 02 172238Z

TO CONGRESS LAST FRIDAY BY WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL BOURNE, DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER AND SENIOR ADVISOR FALCO.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02930 02 OF 02 172246Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 CTME-00 JUSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01  
SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 AID-05 H-01 AGRE-00  
L-03 DODE-00 /061 W

-----080824 172258Z /15

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCONSULATES IN MEXICO (POUCH)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 02930

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT AUTHORITY-  
TATIVE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN CONTACT CONGRESSMAN  
GILMAN, BRIEF HIM THOROUGHLY ON CURRENT STATUS OF

ERADICATION CAMPAIGN AS REPORTED IN MEXICO 2804 AND  
OTHER MESSAGES, AND NOTE THAT ALARMIST STATEMENTS APPEAR  
TOTALLY UNWARRANTED AT THIS TIME BUT DO HAVE A POTENTIAL  
FOR STRAINING US-MEXICAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION TO THE  
POINT THAT THEY MAY WELL BECOME SELF-FULFILLING  
PROPHECIES. SPOKESMAN MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW UPON  
MEXICO 1588 AND STATE 26696, ALONG WHICH LINES WE  
EXPECT TO SOLVE QUESTION OF DEA SPOTTERS' PRESENCE  
UNTIL APRIL. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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